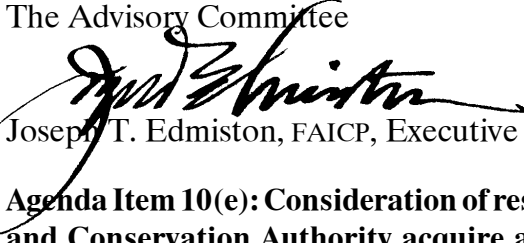


# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: October 27, 2003

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 10(e): Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority acquire approximately a 10 acre portion of APN 5561-003-013, Thrasher Avenue, using funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation District No. 1, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority acquire approximately a 10-acre portion of APN 5561-003-013, Thrasher Avenue, using funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation District No. 1.

Legislative Authority: Section 6500 *et seq.* of the Government Code.

Background: The subject property is located in the Sunset Plaza area of the Hollywood Hills approximately 3,000 feet north of Sunset Boulevard. Street access is from Thrasher Avenue. The property consists of a broad band of contiguous chaparral habitat on an east-facing slope. The proposed acquisition would be an approximately 10.25-acre portion of a single 13-acre parcel. The main benefits to property owners in the subject portion of the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation District No. 1 are viewshed and wildlife habitat protection.

The subject open space area is the largest habitat block on the south-facing flank of the Santa Monica Mountains for over one mile to both the east and west. The property thus provides a key refuge for numerous avian and mammal species that make use of other smaller habitat patches in the area. Because of the property's importance to wildlife presence in the southwestern corner of Assessment District sub-acquisition Area D, it should be acquired despite a fair amount of required brush clearance. The amount of brush clearance can easily be funded by the special brush clearance assessment. In addition, the current owner has been overzealous in his level of clearance so the baseline clearance level handed over the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority would be optimal. The parcel also provides substantial viewshed benefit to hundreds of homes on the network of streets that stem from Sunset Plaza Drive.

The attached aerial photograph shows both the portion of the parcel to be acquired and the remainder piece to be retained by the seller. The acquisition was approved by the District's Citizens Oversight Committee in August of this year.

